

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating control messages between a media library manager~~first device~~ and a storage device~~second device~~, comprising:
 - a communication module configured to direct control messages between ~~[[a]]the~~
media library manager~~first device~~ and ~~[[a]]the~~ storage device~~second device~~
through a ~~[[n]] host~~~~intermediate device~~, the ~~host~~~~intermediate device~~
coupled to the media library manager~~first device~~ by a control path and to
the storage device~~second device~~ by a data path;
 - a translation module configured to distinguish control messages received over the
control path at the host by detecting an identifier in the header of the
control messages, ~~translate control messages received over the control path~~
~~at the intermediate device~~ to transport data messages, and transport data
messages received over the data path at the storage device~~second device~~ to
control messages, wherein each transport data message comprises a Send
Simulated Library Message (SSLIM) Small Computer Systems Interface
(SCSI) Command Descriptor Block (CDB) that encapsulates a control
message in an unaltered form; and
 - a transmission module configured to send transport data messages over the data
path to the storage device~~second device~~ and control messages from the

~~storage device~~~~second device~~ over the control path to the media library manager~~first device~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising the media library manager~~first device~~ polling a ~~storage device~~~~second device~~ for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the ~~storage device~~~~second device~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising the ~~host~~~~intermediate device~~ periodically polling a plurality of ~~storage device~~~~second devices~~ coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library manager~~first device~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a ~~storage~~~~second device~~ notifying the ~~host~~~~intermediate device~~ of a control message for the media library manager~~first device~~ and the ~~host~~~~intermediate device~~ transferring the control message from the ~~storage device~~~~second device~~ to the media library manager~~first device~~ in response to a message from the media library manager~~first device~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the media library manager~~first device~~ and ~~storage device~~~~second device~~ are configured to exchange control messages with ~~the host~~~~intermediate device~~.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating control messages between a media library manager~~controller~~ and a storage device, comprising:

a media library manager~~controller~~ configured to direct control messages for a plurality of storage devices over a host control path;

a[[n]] host~~intermediate device~~ coupled to the host control path and configured to distinguish control messages received over the host control path at the host by detecting an identifier in the header of the control messages, transmit control messages received over the host control path as transport data messages on a data path connecting the host~~intermediate device~~ to the plurality of storage devices, wherein each transport data message comprises a SSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates the control message in an unaltered form, and transport data messages received over the data path as control messages on the host control path connecting the host~~intermediate device~~ to the media library manager~~controller~~; and

wherein the plurality of storage devices are configured to translate transport data messages received over the data path into control messages and control messages for the media library manager~~controller~~ into transport data messages comprising a Receive Simulated Library Message (RSLIM) SCSI CDB that encapsulates the control message for transmission over the data path to the host~~intermediate device~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the media library ~~managere~~controller is configured to poll a storage device for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage device.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the ~~host~~intermediate device periodically polls the storage devices coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library ~~managere~~controller.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein a storage device notifies the ~~host~~intermediate device of a control message for the media library ~~managere~~controller and the ~~host~~intermediate device transfers the control message from the ~~storage devices~~second device to the media library ~~managere~~controller in response to a message from the media library ~~managere~~controller.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for communicating control messages between a media library manager and a storage device over a data path, comprising:

a media library comprising [[a]]the media library manager configured to

automatically mount and unload media cartridges; and

a host configured to communicate over a host control path with the media library

manager to access data on a specific media cartridge and to communicate

with one or more storage devices over a data path to exchange data, the

host further configured to relay control messages between the media

library manager and the plurality of storage devices by distinguishing control messages by detecting an identifier in the header of the control messages, translating between control messages and transport data messages, wherein each storage device bound transport data message comprises a SSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates a control message in an unaltered form and each library media manager bound transport data message comprises a RSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates a control message, the transport data messages traveling over the data path and the control messages traveling over the host control path.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the media library manager polls the storage devices for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage device.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the host periodically polls the storage devices coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library manager.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein a storage device notifies the host of a control message for the media library manager and the host transfers the control message from the storage device to the media library manager in response to a message from the media library manager.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the media library manager is configured to exchange control messages for storage devices over the host control path instead of a direct communication link to the storage devices.

17. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the host is configured to function as a storage device controller integrated within the media library and coupled to a plurality of storage devices that have no direct communication link to the media library manager.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating control messages between a media library manager~~first device~~ and a storage~~second~~ device, comprising:

directing control messages between ~~[[a]]the media library manager~~~~first device~~ and

~~[[a]]the storage~~~~second~~ device through a~~[[n]] host~~~~intermediate device~~, the

~~host~~~~intermediate device~~ coupled to the media library manager~~first device~~

by a control path and to the storage~~second~~ device by a data path;

distinguishing control messages received over the control path by detecting an

identifier in the header of the control messages;

~~the intermediate device~~ translating control messages received over the control

path to transport data messages, wherein each transport data message

comprises a SSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates the control message in an

unaltered form, and transport data messages received over the data path

and comprising a RSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates a control message
to the control message[[s]];

sending transport data messages over the data path to the storage~~second~~ device
and control messages from the storage~~second~~ device over the control path
to the media library manager~~first~~ device; and
translating transport data messages received by the storage~~second~~ device into
control messages.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising the media
library manager~~controller~~ polling a storage device for a response control message subsequent to
sending a control message to the storage device.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising the
host~~intermediate~~ device periodically polling storage devices coupled to the data path for control
messages for the media library manager~~controller~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
notifying the host~~intermediate~~ device of a control message for the media library
manager~~controller~~; and
transferring the control message from the storage device to the media library
manager~~controller~~ in response to a message from the media library
manager~~controller~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
configuring a media ~~library manager~~controller and a storage device to exchange
control messages through ~~[[an]]the host~~intermediate device.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating control messages between
a ~~media library manager~~first device and a ~~storage~~second device, comprising:
means for directing control messages between ~~[[a]]the media library manager~~first device
and ~~[[a]]the storage~~second device through a~~[[n]] host~~intermediate device, the ~~host~~intermediate device coupled to the ~~media library~~
~~manager~~first device by a control path and the ~~storage~~second device by a
data path;
means for translating control messages received over the control path to transport
data messages, wherein each transport data message comprises a SSLIM
SCSI CDB that encapsulates the control message in an unaltered form, and
transport data messages received over the data path to control messages;
means for sending transport data messages over the data path to the ~~storage~~second device
and control messages from the ~~storage~~second device over the
control path to the ~~media library manager~~first device; and
means for translating transport data messages received by the ~~storage~~second device
into control messages.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising means for polling a storage device for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage device.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising means for polling storage devices coupled to the data path for control messages for the media library manager~~controller~~.

28. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a processor and embodying one or more instructions executable by a processor to perform a method for communicating control messages between a media library manager~~first device~~ and a storage~~second~~ device, the method comprising:

directing control messages between ~~[[a]]the media library manager~~first device and ~~[[a]]the storage~~second device through a ~~[[n]] host~~intermediate device, the ~~host~~intermediate device coupled to the ~~[[a]]the media library manager~~first device by a control path and the storage~~second~~ device by a data path; distinguishing control messages received over the control path by detecting an identifier in the header of the control messages;

translating the control messages received over the control path to transport data messages, wherein each transport data message comprises a SSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates the control message in an unaltered form, and transport data messages received over the data path and comprising a RSLIM SCSI CDB that encapsulates a control message to the control

message[[s]];

sending transport data messages over the data path to the ~~storage~~^{second} device
and control messages from the ~~storage~~^{second} device over the control path
to the ~~media library manager~~^{first device}; and
translating transport data messages received by the ~~storage~~^{second} device into
control messages.

29. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises polling a storage device for a response control message subsequent to sending a control message to the storage device.

30. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises the ~~host~~^{intermediate device} polling storage devices coupled to the data path for control messages for the ~~media library manager~~^{controller}.